

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. §101 Rejections

The Office has rejected claims 10 and 22, under 35 U.S.C. §101, as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 10 and 22, each of which now recites a computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions. Applicants submit that claims 10 and 22 are directed to statutory subject matter, and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10 12-14, 16-18, and 20, at paragraph 8 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by "Microsoft Office XP Inside Out" ("Halvorson"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, Halvorson does not disclose that receiving a selection of portions of data comprises receiving results of a search within the plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 1. Instead, Halvorson discloses using one or more statistical functions on cell ranges that a user selects to obtain useful information from data, and a Consolidation command to create a summary view. *See* Halvorson, p. 694. Halvorson does not disclose or suggest receiving results of a search. Therefore, Halvorson fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4, and 6-8 depend from claim 1, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, Halvorson fails to disclose at least one element of each of claims 2, 4, and 6-8. Accordingly, claims 2, 4, and 6-8 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Further, the dependent claims include features not disclosed by the cited references. For example, Halvorson does not disclose receiving results of a search for desired text within the plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 7. Instead, Halvorson discloses linking together

worksheets that share a common organizational format, and using statistical functions to obtain useful information about data. *See* Halvorson, p. 694. For this additional reason, claim 7 is allowable.

Additionally, Halvorson does not disclose appending additional data to the final report spreadsheet, where the additional data is not within the plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 8. Instead, Halvorson discloses selecting the Left Column button to use the labels in that column for correlating data. *See* Halvorson, p. 696. For this additional reason, claim 8 is allowable.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 10. For example, Halvorson does not disclose a computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions to identify second portions of data from the plurality of selected spreadsheets via a predefined search, as recited in claim 10. Instead, Halvorson discloses using one or more statistical functions on cell ranges that a user selects to obtain useful information from data, and a Consolidation command to create a summary view. *See* Halvorson, p. 694. Therefore, Halvorson fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 10. Hence, claim 10 is allowable.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson, disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 12. For example, Halvorson does not disclose a controller including a custom search module adapted to execute a predefined search to identify desired portions of data, as recited in claim 12. Instead, Halvorson discloses using one or more statistical functions on cell ranges that a user selects to obtain useful information from data, and a Consolidation command to create a summary view. *See* Halvorson, p. 694. Therefore, Halvorson fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 12. Hence, claim 12 is allowable.

Claims 13-14, 16-18, and 20 depend from claim 12, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Hence, Halvorson fails to disclose at least one element of each of claims 13-14, 16-17, 18, and 20. Accordingly, claims 13-14, 16-18, and 20 are also allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

Claims 9, 21, and 22 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 9, 21, and 22, at paragraph 11 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,272,628 ("Koss"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As explained above, Halvorson does not disclose each of the elements of claim 1. Koss does not disclose the elements of claim 1 not disclosed by Halvorson. For example, Koss does not disclose that receiving a selection of portions of data comprises receiving results of a search within the plurality of spreadsheets, as recited in claim 1. In contrast to claim 1, Koss discloses that categories for aggregation are specified by a user or are automatically generated based on the categories contained in source tables. See Koss, col. 1, lines 61-64. Koss further discloses that once desired categories are specified, mapping tables are created including pairs of values identifying a source table location and a destination table location. See Koss, col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 1. The system of Koss conducts a binary search of the destination table, based on each pair in the mapping table, to find the correct location in the destination table and to apply the desired table mapping. See Koss, col. 2, lines 2-5. Therefore, Halvorson and Koss, separately or in combination, do not disclose or suggest each and every the element of claim 1, or of claims 9 and 21, which depend from claim 1. Hence, claims 9 and 21 are allowable.

As explained above, Halvorson does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 10. Koss does not disclose the elements of claim 10 not disclosed by Halvorson. For example, Koss does not disclose a computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions to identify second portions of data from the plurality of selected spreadsheets via a predefined search, as recited in claim 10. Instead, the system of Koss conducts a binary search of the destination table, based on each pair in a mapping table, to find a correct location in the destination table and to apply a desired table mapping. See Koss, col. 2, lines 2-5. Therefore, Halvorson and Koss, separately or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 12, or of claim 22, which depends from claim 10. Hence, claim 22 is allowable.

Claim 19 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 19, at paragraph 12 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Halvorson in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0061193 ("Anson"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

None of the cited references, including Halvorson and Anson, disclose or suggest each of the elements of claim 19. For example, Anson fails to disclose a graphical control panel including an event logger adapted to track generation of a final report spreadsheet and to report the tracking to a user during generation of the final report spreadsheet, as recited in claim 19. In contrast to claim 19, Anson discloses that a data set such as an event log may be processed to produce or generate a focused data set. *See* Anson, paragraph 0034. Further, the Office Action admits that Halvorson fails to disclose this element of claim 19. *See* Office Action, page 6. Therefore, Halvorson and Anson, separately or in combination, does not disclose or suggest each of the elements of claim 19. Hence, claim 19 is allowable.

Claim 23 is Allowable

New claim 23 depends from claim 10, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Therefore claim 23 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

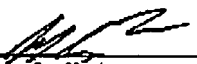
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

Attorney Docket No.: 1033-T00505

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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